

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 at line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

C 1

--Referring now to Fig. 1, there is illustrated a flow diagram illustrating an overview of the present invention. Digitized images are input into a computer system in step S10, where a software program will classify them into distinct categories. For instance, the images will be ranked in chronological order by analyzing the time of capture of each image (date may also be used to isolate the time by day, and in the absence of time, date alone can provide a gross estimate of chronological order). The time of capture of each picture may be extracted, for example, from the encoded information on the film strip of the Advanced Photo System (APS) images, or from information available from some digital cameras. Furthermore, each image is divided into NxN blocks (with N = 2, 3 or 4 in typical implementations). In the preferred embodiment, the image is divided into 3x3 blocks, as shown in Figure 4. For each block, an indication of image content is computed; more specifically, a color histogram is computed for each block (exemplary histograms of the center block are shown for two similar images in Figures 5A and 5B). Then each block of one image is compared, using a conventional histogram intersection metric, to the corresponding block of another image. (The histogram intersection metric is described in the aforementioned U.S. Patent No. 6,606,411 and has the formula

$$Inter(R, C) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \min(R_i, C_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n R_i}$$

where R is the histogram of the reference, C is the histogram of the candidate, and n is the number of bins in the histogram.--
